



Sergii Dvoriak
Ukraine

In 1974 Sergii Dvoriak graduated from Odesa Medical Institute (OMI) as a psychiatrist by training. He gained his first working experience in a rural hospital where he worked as a general health care physician covering different specialties. Three years later he entered a two-year OMI internship in narcology, and between 1979 and 1986 held a position of a Head of the Narcology Department at Odesa Mental Health Hospital, where he started working on substance abuse. In 1986 he defended a dissertation *The Androgen System in Alcoholic Males* at the Moscow Serbsky Research Institute of Psychiatry.

In 1990 he had his first study visit to the United States, which inspired him to start a substance abuse rehabilitation center based on the Minnesota treatment model. One of the first in Ukraine, the Rehabilitation Center “Steps” was opened in Odesa in 1991. Since 1995 clients had been predominantly opioid dependent intravenous drug users (IDUs).

During the mid-1990s it became evident that inefficient IDU treatment in Ukraine fuelled the HIV-epidemic that quickly spread in this population. This shifted his interests towards looking for effective solutions to curb the spread of the HIV epidemic by providing treatment to thousands of IDUs in Ukraine. During 1999–2000 he was selected as a Hubert H. Humphrey (HHH) Drug Abuse Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins University. This fellowship became a paradigm changing experience, as it brought about the understanding of substance abuse as a public health issue that must be treated correspondingly. He learned the concepts of efficacy and cost-effectiveness and came to an understanding of the extent to which substance abuse is politicized in Ukraine.

Over the last 10 years he has been working in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and drug treatment evaluation, organizing care and treatment for HIV-positive IDUs. In 2001, as a WHO expert, he contributed to the development of the Guidelines on “Basic Principles for Treatment and Psychosocial Support of Drug Dependent People Living with HIV/AIDS”. During 2001-2003 he worked as an expert on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse treatment and care at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), providing support to the Ukrainian Government in developing substance abuse and HIV-related policies. Around the same time he participated in the UNODC project Drug Treatment Evaluation Effectiveness in Ukraine in the role of Research Director of the All-Ukrainian Narcology Association.

In 2003 he co-founded the Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy (UIPHP). Nowadays the UIPHP is a leader in implementing Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) and other evidence-based treatment modalities for IDUs in Ukraine. They conduct research and training and closely collaborate with the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, the University of Colorado, and other leading research institutions.

Over recent years he has been actively involved in policy-making initiatives in Ukraine and countries of the Former Soviet Union. He contributed to the development and adoption of the State Strategy on Drugs and Drug Addiction for 2013-2020 in Ukraine. As a consultant to UNODC in Central Asia he designed the Action Plan for provision of OST in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan.